



CLEAN Community Challenge Success Story:

Tire Re-Cap Project West Lafayette, Indiana



Background

The CLEAN stakeholder committee selected this initiative as one of their five CLEAN goals. Selection of the goal was mainly motivated by the potential for cost savings.

Goal

Reduce the amount of solid waste (rubber) being sent to the landfill by reusing tire cores and by purchasing recap tires from vendor.

Action Plan and Tasks Completed

- Purchase recap tires for all 10:00 x 22 rear truck tires, with the exception of steer tires
- Collect data and track results

Accomplishments

Retread or recapping of tires is a re-manufacturing process for tires that replace the tread on worn tires. In the past, recapping tires had a bad reputation due to quality issues. However, in recent years, the quality of recapped tires has improved tremendously. Tread life of the tires lasts even longer than traditional tires, and the cost is about half that of buying a new tire. If the casings of the tires are in good shape, they can be re-capped at least three times. The city of West Lafayette's biggest users of tires are garbage trucks and other large trucks that experience heavy wear and tear. The city has successfully implemented its plan to use only recap tires on all 10:00 x 22 rear track tires.

Savings

Approximately \$46,000 has been saved since the recapping program began.

Recommendations from the city of West Lafayette

Even for highway driving, the city has found that using recap tires has been very cost effective, and they have not had any quality problems. The only drawback that the city found is that it takes some time for the tire company to complete the retread process, so it is necessary to keep some extra tires on hand.



About the CLEAN Program

CLEAN stands for Comprehensive Local Environmental Action Network. The CLEAN Community Challenge is a voluntary recognition program for cities, towns, and counties that go above and beyond environmental regulatory compliance and make significant commitments to environmental management. For more information about CLEAN, please visit <http://www.in.gov/idem/prevention/2361.htm>.